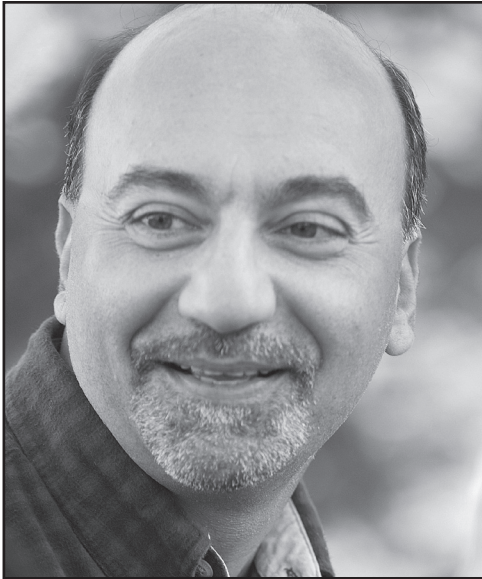


# House District 18

**Les S. Gara, Democrat**



**RESIDENCE ADDRESS:** 1242 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 1242 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**E-MAIL:** lesgara@yahoo.com

**WEBSITE:** lesgara.org

**AGE:** 49

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City

**NAME OF SPOUSE:** Kelly

**OCCUPATION:**  
Freelance Fishing, Outdoors writer for magazines including Alaska Magazine and Fish Alaska Magazine; Attorney (no active practice since 2000)

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 24 years

**ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:**  
Anchorage 1989-present; Fairbanks 1988-89

**EDUCATION:**  
Freeport High School; Boston University (B.A. with Honors 1985); Harvard Law School (J.D. with Honors 1988)

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Civil Prosecution; Law Clerk, AK Supreme Ct. Justice Jay Rabinowitz; Legislator

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
Part Owner, Snow City Cafe, Alaska Bar Association

**SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:**  
Helped Found Volunteer programs to assign mentors to foster youth; get laptops and new discount clothing to foster youth; Lifetime member, Alaska Flyfishers Association

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**  
Fishing, Hiking, Rafting, Scrabble, Movies

**OTHER:**  
I've been married to my wife Kelly since 1990. I grew up in foster care after my father was killed in 1969; attended public schools; attended college and law school through a combination of work, scholarships, loans and financial aid.

**STATEMENT:**  
I hope we can work together, across party lines, to create opportunity for **all Alaskans**, regardless of whether they are born with wealth or privilege.

Money should not be a barrier to education, job training or college. Quality schools require quality staff, smaller, rather than increasing class sizes, and I've worked to fix the proposals by the House Republicans that have led to increased class sizes and teacher layoffs.

I believe in vibrant oil and gas development, but do not believe in the \$2 billion in oil company giveaways pushed by the outside oil companies, the Governor and his House allies. That bill allowed outside oil companies to take those breaks, and spend them outside of Alaska. Instead, I believe and have filed legislation requiring that oil company tax breaks be tied to commitments to hire Alaskans, and invest in Alaska oilfield exploration, development, and in new oil.

I believe in a large diameter gas pipeline. The best market for that gas today is Asia through a Southcentral LNG facility. A large diameter pipeline will produce the economies of scale so that Alaskans will be able to secure affordable natural gas for our communities.

I've worked to improve opportunity for Alaska's children, and have successfully pushed reforms to provide job training, college, mentorship, and the transition of foster youth to a successful adulthood.

And I've co-sponsored legislation to stop gasoline price gouging.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me any time. I'd be honored with your support.

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.  
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.*